

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 07152 081250Z

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9437

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 07152

EXDIS

E.O. 111652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, JA, CA, SW, BE, FR, IT, GW, UK

SUBJECT: SOAMES' CONCERN OVER AUTOMOBILE ANTI-DUMPING CASE

REF: STATE 187112

1. BEFORE WE DELIVERED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION TO COMMISSION OF TREASURY ACTION ON AUTO ANTI-DUMPING PROCEEDINGS, I RECEIVED CALL FROM AVERY IN SOAMES' CABINET WITH "URGENT" MESSAGE FOR SECRETARY. SOAMES (CURRENTLY ON VACATION) HAD CALLED AVERY THIS MORNING AND ASKED WE BE INFORMED OF HIS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER EFFECT WHICH DECISION TO GO FORWARD WITH INVESTIGATION LIKELY TO HAVE ON PRESENT CLIMATE OF US-EC RELATIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO AVERY, SOAMES STRESSED POINT THAT IT WAS NOT THIS ACTION MORE THAN OTHERS BUT RATHER CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF SERIES OF ACTIONS US APPEARED TO BE TAKING OR CONSIDERING UNDER COUNTERVAILING AND ANTI-DUMPING LAWS WHICH THREATENED SERIOUS EROSION OF CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE WITHOUT WHICH PREGRESS ON BROADER ISSUES COULD BE JEOPARDIZED. SOAMES WANTED TO BE SURE THAT SECRETARY HAD BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT ANTI-DUMPING PROBLEM ON AUTOS AND THAT HE BE ADVISED OF SOAMES' CONCERN ABOUT BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THESE ACTIONS.

3. I INFORMED AVERY OF CONTENTS REFTEL, EMPHASIZING THAT (A) REGARDLESS OF WHAT HIGH US OFFICIALS MAY WANT TO DO
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 07152 081250Z

PERSONALLY, OUR LAWS WERE VERY EXPLICIT ABOUT ACTIONS

THAT HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN THESE CASES; (B) AS REQUESTED BY COUNTRIES WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO WASHINGTON ON THIS MATTER, TREASURY HAD ACTED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO REFER COMPLAINTS TO ITC FOR INJURY INVESTIGATION, AND (C) PRESS RELEASE CONTAINED LANGUAGE WHICH AT LEAST SHOWED SOME DOUBT ON PART OF ADMINISTRATION THAT IMPORTS WERE CAUSE OF INDUSTRY'S PROBLEM.

4. I ASSURED AVERY I WOULD PASS SOAMES CONCERN TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH SHOULD SECRETARY WISH TO USE THIS CHANNEL FOR RESPONSE TO SOAMES.

5. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND SECRETARY RESPOND WITH PERSONAL MESSAGE, INDICATING HIS AWARENESS OF FACT OF EC CONCERN AND EXPRESSING DETERMINATION TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH SOAMES IN ORDER TO TRY AND MITIGATE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS. MESSAGE COULD ALSO STRESS THAT US LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, WHILE STRICT, ARE FAIR, AND, TO EXTENT ADMINISTRATION HAS FLEXIBILITY, IT WILL BE USED WITH CAREFUL REGARD TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS IN CONSTRUCTIVE OVERALL RELATIONSHIP. MORRIS

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